



FACT SHEET



**Pester Refinery Co./Pester Burn Pond
Superfund Site
El Dorado, Kansas**

August 1998

PUBLIC MEETING

KDHE and EPA will hold a public meeting 6 p.m., Wednesday, September 2, 1998 at the Bradford Memorial Library, 611 South Washington, El Dorado, Kansas.

The purpose of the meeting is to summarize and take written and oral comments on two proposed decisions on the cleanup of the Pester Refinery Company/Pester Burn Pond Superfund site. The 30-day public comment period opens August 21, 1998 and closes September 19, 1998.

Comments can be submitted orally, at the public meeting, or in writing. Written comments (post-marked no later than September 19, 1998) can be sent to:

Kurt Limesand, KDHE
Bureau of Environmental Remediation
Forbes Field, Bldg. 740
Topeka, Kansas 66620
(785) 296-1671

KDHE AND EPA SEEK COMMENTS

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 are requesting public comment on two proposed decisions about cleanup of the Pester Refinery Co./Pester Burn Pond Superfund Site in El Dorado, Kansas.

The first of the two documents, an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD), describes proposed modifications to 1992 and 1993 decisions about the sludge and soils phase of the cleanup. This is the first phase, or "Operable Unit" (OU1), of the ongoing Superfund cleanup at the site.

This ESD describes improvements to the ongoing process of biologically processing and treating the contaminated soils and liquids that remain at the site. The ESD also supplies some additional details about closing the treatment units after the cleanup process is complete.

The second document, a Proposed Plan, describes EPA's preferred remedy for the second phase of the cleanup, or Operable Unit (OU2). EPA is recommending that no additional action be taken at this time to address the groundwater at the site, other

than monitoring, since previous and ongoing actions appear to have adequately addressed the risks at the site.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Pester Refinery Company/Pester Burn Pond Site is located on a 10-acre tract in northwestern El Dorado, Kansas. The refinery occupying the area immediately west of the site was constructed in 1917. The refinery and surrounding area were purchased by Fina Oil and Chemical Company (Fina) in 1958.

The burn pond area was used to store various refinery by-products. In addition, when the waste products contained combustible gases, refinery personnel would ignite the waste product as it came out of the pipe. Whatever did not burn was discharged out of the pipe into the pond.

The Pester Refining Company (Pester) purchased the refinery and ponds from Fina in 1977 and later declared bankruptcy in 1985. EPA placed the Pester Refinery Co./Pester Burn Pond Site on the National Priorities List in 1989. A Consent Order was signed between Pester, Fina, and KDHE in 1990 to conduct an investigation of the site and to evaluate potential remedies for contamination at the site.

A remedy was selected for addressing soils and sludges at the site in 1992, and first revised in 1993. Also in 1992, EPA and KDHE divided the groundwater issues at the site to be studied separately.

KDHE, Fina, and Pester entered into a further Consent Order in 1993 to design and implement the remedy for the soil and sludge cleanup. The cleanup of that portion of the site has been ongoing since 1995.

Finally, Fina and KDHE entered into a third Consent Order in 1993 to investigate and evaluate potential remedies for contaminated groundwater at the site. Based on that study and its related evaluation of site risks, KDHE and EPA are now proposing that no additional cleanup is needed for groundwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

KDHE and EPA encourage community members to review and comment on the ESD and the Proposed Plan for the Pester Refinery Company. The documents are in the Administrative Record File (a single file of all documents about the remedial action). The Administrative Record File is available for public review at the following information repositories, during normal business hours:

Bradford Memorial Library
611 South Washington
El Dorado, Kansas

KDHE
Bureau of Environmental Remediation
Forbes Field, Bldg. 740
Topeka, Kansas

EPA Region 7
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas